

## **Testimony of Jennifer Detzer**

**My name is Jennifer Detzer of Waterbury.**

**I am a single mother of my 10-year-old autistic son.**

**My income consists of my Social Security as well as my son's, which are used to pay our rent and utilities for each month, just getting by.**

**I also must struggle to come up with \$4.50 a week to get my son to therapy, which helps him with his coping skills.**

**I also struggle to come up with \$2.00 a week for Cub Scouts for Special Needs Children, which also helps my son with social skills. I am unable to afford to get him the Cub Scout Book that costs \$10.00 or even his Cub Scout uniform.**

**I also have to struggle to find ways to put food on the table and to buy clothing for the two of us. My son's school helps the best they can with his uniforms for the year.**

**Now I am suppose to pay co-pays on top of this. I am a single mother who is doing the best I can for my autistic son, and now the governor is looking to cut the programs that have helped him and many others so far.**

**I am not just speaking for my son and myself, but for the many other parents who struggle with the same or similar issues, and have no idea about what is happening with Husky within the state.**

**Please do not let this happen to the many innocent families in Connecticut.**

**I graduated from the Parent Leadership Training Institute in Danbury, and I am worried that parents will not be given the opportunity to learn how to correctly and appropriately advocate on behalf of their children if the governor is allowed to cut the Commission on Children out in the budget.**

**Please do not let this happen for the sake of all Children in Connecticut.**

**I believe that part of learning to advocate for a child or for yourself is education, and I believe the governor did say she was not making cuts to education.**